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**Thursday, October 27, 2011**

# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Obama woos young voters with student loan program



DENVER (AFP) - US President Barack Obama yesterday dwelt upon his own struggles with student debt, as he laid out a plan to ease the burden of college loans and reached out to young voters in key swing state. The president said he and his wife spent years paying off a combined student debt load of \$120,000.

"This is something Michelle and I know about first hand. I've been in your shoes. We did not come from a wealthy family," Obama told students at the University of Colorado.

"We didn't even own our own home. We were able to land good jobs with a steady income. But it still took us almost 10 years to finally pay off all our student debt."

"We want you in school.

But we shouldn't saddle you with debt when you're starting off," Obama said, referring to the high fees, in the tens of thousands of dollars a year, many US students face on the way to a degree.

Obama's plan, to be enacted by executive order, will mean payments would go down for 1.6 million Americans who are stuck with student loan debt, officials said. It allows graduates to cap their loan payments at 10 percent of their income - a measure which had originally been due to come into force in 2014, but will now be available two years early.

The administration also plans to consolidate student loans so that borrowers do not have to make repayments to multiple lenders each month.

## HRM Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands arrives today

ORANJESTAD -- Her Royal Majesty, Queen Beatrix of Holland, accompanied by her son, Prince of Orange, heir to the throne, and his wife, HRH Princess Maxima are due to arrive at the Reina Beatrix International Airport this morning, as Aruba is the first stop in a tour of the Dutch Caribbean.

Pomp and circumstance will mark her visit, particularly tomorrow morning in front of Parliament, where she and a delegation of Dutch dignitaries will be officially welcomed by Prime Minister Mike Eman, and Governor Fredis Refunjol. The Queen's appointed representative on Aruba.

Main thoroughfares, such as L.G. Smith Boulevard in Oranjestad, will be blocked off for events; only those with special passes will be allowed to enter for parking and attendance.

Today the Royal Family will rest and relax at their Palm Beach resort and attend a private gala hosted by Governor Refunjol in the evening. The official public schedule begins in Oranjestad tomorrow morning when they arrive with their entourage at 9:45, and after a formal welcome and ritual inspection of an Honor Guard of the Royal Dutch Marines and the Aruba Militia, will retire into the Government House to meet Ministers and Parliamentarians.

The festive event at the Linear Park will take place from 3:00 to 6:00 PM with display booths showcasing the diverse cultures of many of Aruba's expatriate communities; Chinese, Filipino, Indian and people of the Do-



minican Republic, among others, will be demonstrating their food, handicrafts, music and performing arts. The park will be closed for a private event from 4:30 to 6:30 PM.

On the final day of her visit, HRM Queen Beatrix will be escorted to Arikok National Park early in the morning, followed by a tour of the "Bo Bario" beautification project taking place in the Juwana Morto neighborhood of San Nicolas. She and HRH Princess Maxima will visit the headquarters of "Fundacion Hende Muhe den Dificultad" (Foundation for Battered Women) in the afternoon while the Prince of Orange addresses the Aruba

Green Energy Conference at the Renaissance Convention Center. In the early evening they will board a plane for Bonaire.

The visit is a proud and exciting time for islanders, and Arubans and the government hope to see visitors enjoy this special occasion, but also beg their patience for the various traffic tie-ups and interruption to the island's normal tranquility it will illicit. It is a rare and extraordinary event, which should add some distinction to the Aruba vacation, particularly for those who have never before experienced a Royal Visit.

*by Rosalie Klein*

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## 2nd Green Aruba Energy Conference opens today

ORANJESTAD -- This is an exciting weekend for Aruba, when 2 spectacularly important events coincide and intertwine; the "Bishita Real" or Royal Visit of Her Royal Majesty, Queen Beatrix of Holland with her son, Prince of Orange, heir to the throne, and his wife, HRH Princess Maxima.

Today at 9:30, the opening sessions of the Green Aruba Energy Conference will also begin. The inaugural conference last year brought former Vice-President Al Gore to Aruba as Keynote Speaker; this year HRH Prince of Orange will end the three-day event on Saturday, after which the formal signing of the agreement between TNO (Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research) and Aruba for the establishment of the first renewable energy research and learning center in the region will close the conference.

Green Aruba 2011 is an opportunity for any and all who are interested in the welfare of not only Aruba, but the entire planet, to learn about the latest technology in harnessing renewable and "clean" energy sources from innovators in sun, wind, geo-thermal and hydro-energy. Presenters have traveled from Europe and the U.S.; lectures and the display booths are in English.

Opening session today will feature addresses of welcome by island officials: Prime Minister Mike Eman and Minister of Finance, Telecommunications, Utilities & Energy, Mike de Meza, who will outline their vision for an Aruba and Caribbean region independent from the vicissitudes of a volatile oil industry. Jan Willem Kelder, a member of the TNO Board of Management, will also address the gathering.

The morning sessions will be dedicated to the topic "Green Energy for Small Island Countries" featuring Ulric Trotz, Science Adviser from Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre and Aruba's Minister of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar. After the lunch break, the topic will continue with guest speakers Kevin De Cuba from the ECPA Initiative Manager Energy and Sustainable Development Specialist at OAS, Duzan Doepel of the Hogeschool of Rotterdam and O.J. Boekhoudt, Director of WEB Aruba, the island's energy producer and water plant, followed by a panel discussion.

Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development, European Commission will address the conference at 3:30 PM, after which he will join island dignitaries and con-



ference Co-Chairperson Dr. Edward Cheung for the official opening of Europe House and the TNO Caribbean Branch Office at their newly renovated premises on the Sasaki Highway, on the western outskirts of Oranjestad. The building is being dedicated to Dr. Cheung, an innovative robotics engineer born on Aruba, who has been an integral part of the NASA space program, in particular the Hubble Space Telescope, working out of Goddard Space Center for nearly 2 decades.

Friday's conference schedule examines "The future of Green Energy" in the morning with a green technology update after the lunch break. Featured speakers are:

- \* Mr. Gilbert Gouveneur – Ecopower International
- \* Mr. Chell Roberts - Executive Dean & Professor, Arizona State University
- \* Mr. Dr. Frederick Stoss – University of Buffalo

\* Mr. Ramon Hernan, Executive Vice President, North America & Brazil

\* Mr. Mart van Bracht – Managing Director Energy TNO

A panel discussion will follow the presentations. Guest speakers for the afternoon session are:

\* Mr. Rens Knecht, director Alternative Energy Eneco

\* Mr. Ray Buckley, Vice President Valero Refinery Aruba

\* Mr. dr. Henry Brandhorst – former NASA scientist

\* Mr. Jan van der Tempel – TUDelft

\* Mr. Jan Ebbing, Director Caribbean Branch Office TNO

A number of them will be updating information introduced at last year's conference.

Saturday morning will focus on "Green Finance" and examine the advantages for small islands of public/private partnerships, or PPP. Speakers are:

\* Mr. Milton Berlinski – Managing Director, Goldman Sachs

\* Mrs. Jacqueline Cramer – former Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment of the Netherlands

\* Mr. Niels Jongste – Managing Director Green Giraffe Capital

\* Mr. Jan Mengelers CEO TNO

\* Mr. Paul Nillesen – PWC, Partner Dutch Energy & Utilities Practice, Dutch EU&M Advisory

Mrs. Sandra Odendahl of the Royal Bank of Canada will moderate.

The conference is to inform all island residents and those who have concerns about the environment, financial stability regarding energy requirements and costs, and the sustainability of the island nations of the region. Aruba's present administration is taking bold and definitive steps to establish this industry not only with an eye towards stabilizing its economy by being oil independent, but as they describe it "a potential 3rd pillar of Aruba's economy" as it is expected the research center will generate income by attracting students and researchers from around the globe.

Presentations begin daily at 9:00 AM for those interested in attending.

by Rosalie Klein

## Department for Labor Progress working diligently on clearing accumulated overdue petitions

ORANJESTAD -- The Department of Admission to the Labor Market (Toelating Arbeidsmarkt) which is a division under the Department for Labor Progress, hereby informs the public concerning the accumulated overdue petitions, which accumulated during their move to the new facilities and the change from the old DAO to the new DPL.

The entire process which entailed significant administrative changes and the physical moving process of material and

documents, the change of personnel and new management, brought about a buildup of documents and a delay in executing these timely. As a result, the department of Admission

suffered a delay with the petitions of work permits. Some of these are for prolongations, others for change of signature or for new labor petitions.

Continued on page 5



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## Cool Casino debuts new Rio Sunset slot machines



Cool Casino at the Riu Palace just receive 15 new Rio Sunset slot machine manufactured by Ainsworth, which is a global provider to gaming markets with an outstanding range of gaming technology and game combination software.

The new Rio Sunset Slot Machines allow players to experience the glitz and glamour of the latest touch technology, right here on Aruba. The bank of highly innovative slots offers a linked progressive shared by all 15 machines. The game presents three levels of bonuses, with a Minor Bonus, a Major Bonus and a Grand Bonus, as well as thrilling free game features.

Frequent wins and free plays keep players involved and enthralled for a long time, in front of the wide screen, with dazzling graphics, in 1-cent, 2-cent and 5-cent denominations, and more than 30 games lines, with many variations.

Marian Erasmus, of the marketing department reports, that Halloween weekend activities at Cool Casino start on Friday and culminate on Monday, October 31st, with a number of promotions including a Free Slot Tournament and two BJ Tournaments featuring great cash prizes, \$1,000 on Friday and \$2,500 on Monday, as well as live music.



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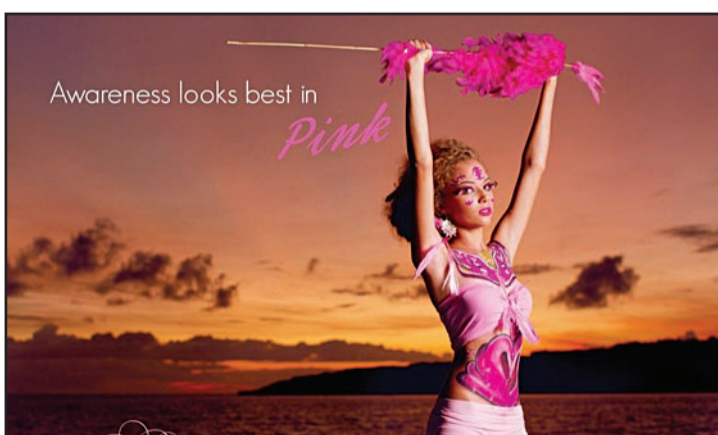
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This is the text for a campaign to make women conscious of breast cancer by the Make-up Artist Beth in Cura-

cao. They have received collaboration from the talented photographer, Robert Volkerts and model Elyse Isebia for this marvelous job of the Pink Warrior. Everyone worked voluntarily on this project.

Bethyamin van Nieuwenhuizen was inspired by the movie "Five."

The movie inspired her to draw a piece of art that could motivate and remind every one of her female fans on Face

Book to remember to schedule a mammogram every year. The message is very clear, when you detect cancer at an early stage the possibility for a cure is very great that it can be treated and cured.

Arawak Moms is making an appeal to the entire community of Aruba to join the campaign. Go to the website: [www.facebook.com/makeupartistbeth](http://www.facebook.com/makeupartistbeth) and one of the photos of the series entitled: "To raise awareness of breast cancer through early detection." Make this your face book profile picture and tell the female friends close to you to go and schedule a mammogram today!

Last week Arawak Moms distributed pertinent information to mothers, and today they are sharing this motivation with all women...don't ignore this message...do your mammogram checkups regularly.

## 2011 BMW X3 Earns Full 5 Stars in Euro NCAP Crash Test



Thanks to its segment-leading dynamic handling and versatility, the new BMW X3 has emerged as a highly successful model in the international car markets within a matter of months. The fact that it also assumes an exemplary role on the safety front has now been confirmed by Europe's leading crash test program. In the latest Euro NCAP crash test, the BMW X3 achieved the highest rating of 5 stars. The second-generation Sports Activity Vehicle earned its top marks in this challenging test for new vehicles thanks to its comprehensive range of standard safety equipment and effective occupant protection in various types of collision.

Achieving the best rating in the Euro NCAP crash test is proof of the very high level of the safety concept developed for the BMW X models. The new BMW X3 boasts an extremely stable body structure, and the forces exerted on the vehicle in a collision are deflected along precisely defined load paths and absorbed by generous deformation zones. Consequently, the passenger cell fulfils its function as a survival space even in serious collisions. Standard safety equipment inside the new BMW X3 includes front, side and curtain head airbags that protect both the driver and the passengers from injury. Also standard are belt latch tensioners and belt force limiters for the front seats and ISOFIX systems in the rear for attaching child seats, as well as the option of

deactivating the front passenger airbag. In their evaluation of the crash test results, the assessors concluded that the new BMW X3 provides a high degree of occupant safety in all seats.

Its stable passenger cell provides comprehensive injury protection in a front-end collision for both the driver and the passengers, regardless of a person's size and the position of their seat. Here the Sports Activity Vehicle was awarded outstanding ratings for the protection of children aged around three years or 18 months in the relevant-sized child seats. For its side impact protection, the BMW X3 likewise achieved the maximum available points.

The test procedure of the NCAP (New Car Assessment Program) ranks as one of the most rigorous tests worldwide to which new vehicles are subjected. The Euro NCAP test is a benchmark for crash safety recognised throughout Europe by governments, automobile clubs and consumer associations.

The new BMW X3 models can be admired at the showroom of Ultimate Automobiles. The dynamic local company, together with Arucar Automobiles, is the exclusive car dealer for renowned car models BMW, Mini, Suzuki, Chrysler, Jeep Subaru and Dodge. Ultimate Automobile with its excellent personnel offers clients the ultimate service. For more information, visit their showroom at Sabana Blanco #35, call at 583-9800 or just send an e-mail at [info@ultimatearucar.com](mailto:info@ultimatearucar.com)



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## Department for Labor Progress with new innovative Website

ORANJESTAD -- The Department for Labor Progress (DPL) has recently launched an innovative aspect to their website which students studying abroad can access. These students can check on job possibilities in Aruba. According to DPL, this will be a tremendous stimulus for these students to want to return to their island.

DPL is also contemplating ways to put students in direct

contact with local prospective employers through their internet website...www.dpl.aw.

On the website, both job seekers and employers can obtain information and the necessary related documents. There is also a list of the published vacancies which are updated weekly. All the required forms are also available on the website which facilitates the employer who no longer needs to go all the

way to the Office of DPL to obtain these. All the forms can be downloaded, filled out and later delivered to DPL's Office.

All the Man Power Planning forms in each job category are available, the form for the first work permit, the form for the permit for extension, the form for change of signature, and the form for announcing vacancies are all available for download on the website.

Daily they receive numerous emails from those asking questions, offering criticism, commentary or suggestions. Each email is attended by one person who responds to each inquiry and/or forwards emails to departments pertaining to the request coming in.

DPL is giving a lot of attention to students who are

completing their study abroad and who often choose not to return, because, in their view, Aruba has nothing to offer them on the labor market.

As of now any student who has completed their course of study or is about to finish, can contact DPL via their modern website, submit their CV in a digital format so they can begin the job search process immediately.

In the future DPL expects to add a Chat Box so everyone can talk to someone at DPL directly for information relative to work or other services offered by this department.

They would like to offer students information on what jobs are available and specifically what functions are currently being sought in specific work environments on the island.

## Department for Labor Progress...

*Continued from page 2*

They are working diligently to come up to date. They are attending to those with the longest wait time. They understand the importance of getting these petitions executed as efficiently and as timely as possible so as to guarantee the continuation of the developments in the labor and job markets.

The DPL team is working overtime and even on the weekend to comply with the demand and to work away the buildup of overdue petitions.

There is a great deal of work involved in each of these petitions. They require much administrative processing. The department expressed their sincere apology for the delay. They believe that within about 4 weeks they should have everything completely under control and be able to function normally.

The DPL also wants to remind those who have submitted a petition to Admissions that only the employer or his representative who is legally authorized in writing, to submit and/or collect documents from the DPL or Department of Admissions.

There is a prescribed manner for submitting a petition to DPL. The process includes an analysis of the local market to ascertain if there are qualified and capable persons available and willing to work. This survey is conducted by the Department of Mediation and Re-integration (Job Center). If indeed there are no candidates available, only then the employer is permitted to submit a petition at the office of Admission.

Then there are certain specific requirements that the employer must comply with in order to submit a petition for a foreign employee.

One of the requirements is that the employer must also submit, together with the petition, proof of proficiency by means of an authentic diploma, certificate, and/or notarized letters of recommendation.

The Department of Admission is open for receiving petitions providing these comply with all the prescribed legal requirements and after the local market has been surveyed.

The days of deceiving the Department and of playing games is over. Everything proceeds now efficiently, strictly, honestly and in the sincere interest of all parties involved...the employer, prospective employee and the Aruban labor market!



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## Looting in Turkey as quake survivors seethe over aid

ERCIS (AFP) - Desperate survivors of Turkey's devastating earthquake looted truckloads of aid supplies as Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan acknowledged failures yesterday in the relief effort.

As night-time temperatures dropped to below zero and snow was forecast to fall overnight, authorities were in a race against time to provide some form of shelter for the thousands of people who faced another night out in the open.

Weather reports said temperatures in Van province would dip two to four degrees Celsius today, with further snow expected at night.

Officials raised the death toll to 481, with more than 1,600 injured, but the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has

said that "hundreds, possibly thousands" of people are still trapped under the rubble in the eastern region.

Excavators in Van meanwhile began clearing rubble on yesterday evening as rescue workers estimated that no survivors were left beneath the debris.

With complaints about the pace of the relief effort mounting, the government finally agreed to accept help from abroad although Erdogan insisted that things were now coming under control after a tricky beginning.

"We accept that there were some failures within the first 24 hours," the prime minister said in remarks on Turkish television, in particular acknowledging problems with the distribution of tents.

However he also said it was understandable that there would be teething problems given the scale of the disaster and that he had sent a number of ministers to oversee the relief efforts.

"Almost a quarter of the cabinet is there now ... we have brought the situation under control in the last couple of days," he said.

While the government initially refused outside offers of help it reversed that decision late Tuesday. A Ukrainian plane landed in Erzurum airport yesterday evening, close to Van province, bringing four tents with a 20-man capacity and a heating system, Anatolia news agency reported. Planes carrying aid from France and Italy were also expected to land in Erzurum, it said.

## Record fine for VI firm caught trading protected coral

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US authorities slapped a US Virgin Islands company yesterday with a record \$4.5 million in total fines for trading in thousands of pounds of protected black coral in the United States.

The Justice Department said GEM Manufacturing was sentenced to the highest financial penalty ever imposed on a firm involved in the illegal coral trade.

The company headquartered in St. Thomas was sentenced for "knowingly trading in falsely-labeled, protected black coral that was shipped into the United States in violation of the Endangered Species Act and the Lacey Act," the agency said in a statement.

GEM was sentenced to pay a criminal fine of \$1.8 million after the firm pleaded guilty in July to seven counts of violating the ESA and the Lacey Act, which makes it a felony to

falsely label wildlife.

It was also ordered to pay an additional \$500,000 in community service for projects to protect black coral, and forced to forfeit jewelry, artistic sculpture and more than 13,655 pounds (6,200 kilograms) of raw coral valued at more than \$2.17 million.

Black coral provides key habitat for a variety of deep sea species. Such slow-growing coral can live for hundreds or even thousands of years, according to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The precious coral can be polished to a high sheen and is valued for its use in artistic sculpture and jewelry.

Overharvesting due to the wider availability of deep sea scuba gear has threatened the coral group, with an increase of seizures of black coral suggesting that poaching is on the rise.

## Hurricane Rina weakens, holds course for Cancun

CANCUN, (AFP) - Hurricane Rina weakened yesterday but held its course for a direct hit on Mexico's tourist beaches, where evacuation orders were issued for vulnerable coastal areas.

Residents reinforced windows and 1,000 emergency shelters were set up in preparation for this evening when Rina is expected to come crashing ashore over tourist hotspots such as Cancun, Playa del Carmen and Cozumel.

Cuba was also being urged

to prepare for high winds and heavy rains over the weekend as Rina curls off northward into the Caribbean.

The Miami-based National Hurricane Center said Rina had "significantly weakened" with maximum sustained winds of 85 miles (135 kilometers) per hour, as opposed to 110 miles (175 kilometers) per hour overnight.

Now only a category one storm on the five-point Saffir-Simpson scale, US experts said they expected it to weaken fur-

ther before making landfall on tonight.

NHC spokesman Dennis Feltgen told AFP that "the storm may have peaked," but warned that Rina remained "dangerous" and could still cause fatalities and destruction.

The US State Department has warned Americans living or on vacation in the area to prepare for the storm, and perhaps consider leaving Mexico as flights could be disrupted once the storm starts to bear down.

Rina is the sixth hurricane and 17th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to November 30. After passing near or over Mexico's Yucatan, it is forecast to weaken as it spins toward Cuba and Florida.

Feltgen said Florida was not likely to be hit hard as the storm could peter out by the time it nears the US mainland.

## Five die as floods shut down Ghana's capital city

ACCRA (AFP) - Floodwaters following overnight torrential rains brought Ghana's capital city Accra to a standstill yesterday and killed at least five people, a rescue official said.

Electricity was cut off in most of the inundated ocean-side city of 3.9 million people as schools, banks and other businesses were shut, according to an AFP reporter.

Residents fled their homes as the water levels rose following several hours of rains that pounded the city. The city's main public transport hub known as the Kwame Nkrumah circle was inundated leaving commuters stranded.

Rains in October are abnormal for Ghana where the rainy season traditionally runs from June through August.

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## Libya interim ruler urges NATO to stay till year end

DOHA (AFP) - Libya's interim leader Mustafa Abdel Jalil yesterday urged NATO to continue its Libya campaign until year's end, saying loyalists of slain despot Moamer Kadhafi still pose a threat to the country.

Abdel Jalil's comments, made at a Doha conference of military allies of his National Transitional Council (NTC), came a day after Kadhafi's body was buried in secret under cover of darkness after being displayed in public for four days.

"We hope (NATO) will continue its campaign until at least the end of this year to serve us and neighbouring countries," NTC chairman Abdel Jalil told the Conference of Friends Committee.

This request is aimed at "ensuring that no arms are infiltrated into those countries and to ensure the security of Libyans from some remnants of Kadhafi's forces who have fled to nearby countries," he added.

The NTC is also seeking help from NATO in "developing Libya's defence and security systems," Abdel Jalil told the conference.

UN envoy Ian Martin told the Security Council that international inspectors need to visit hundreds of suspected weapons stockpiles in Libya amid growing fears that huge numbers of shoulder-fired missiles have been looted.


He also said that new previously undeclared sites for storing chemical weapons had been uncovered since the fall of Kadhafi's government.

Kadhafi's regime had "accumulated the largest known stockpile of anti-aircraft missiles," Martin said.

"Thousands were destroyed during NATO operations. But I have to report to you our increasing concerns over the looting and likely proliferation of MANPADS," or Man-Portable Air Defence Systems, Martin said.

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## Niger obliged to co-operate with ICC says official

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Niger has an obligation to co-operate in bringing to justice Libyan fugitives Seif al-Islam and Abdullah al-Senussi, wanted by the International Criminal Court, a court spokesman said yesterday.

"There is definitely an obligation on Niger to co-operate as it is a state party to the Rome Statute," the ICC's

founding document, said Fadi El Abdallah.

But he slapped down media reports suggesting either man wanted to hand himself over to the ICC, saying he had "no information or confirmation."

"It is something we would have to follow up with the Council," El Abdallah told AFP, referring to Libya's National Transitional Council (NTC).

Slain Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi's son and one-time heir apparent, Seif al-Islam was on Tuesday poised to cross into Niger along with Senussi, his father's ex-intelligence chief, a Tuareg official said.

The two are the most wanted fugitives from the slain despot's ousted circle and are wanted by the ICC on charges

of crimes against humanity, committed after the start of the uprising against Kadhafi's regime in mid-February. The ICC issued arrest warrants against the three on June 27.

Both are widely expected to seek refuge in Niger following Kadhafi's death last week.

Libya's southern neighbour, which for years was one of the west African countries that

benefited most from Kadhafi's largesse, is already sheltering dozens of former regime officials, including another of Kadhafi's sons.

France may demand Senussi's extradition if he is arrested by Niamey, since a Paris court sentenced him in absentia to life in prison for the 1989 bombing of a French UTA airliner that claimed 170 lives.



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## Health & Living

# The unstable future of a world full of men

-- (AFP) As the global population hits seven billion, experts are warning that skewed gender ratios could fuel the emergence of volatile "bachelor nations" driven by an aggressive competition for brides.

The precise consequences of what French population expert Christophe Guilmoto calls the "alarming demographic masculinisation" of countries such as India and China as the result of sex-selective abortion remain unclear.

But many demographers believe the resulting shortage of adult women over the next 50 years will have as deep and pervasive an impact as climate change.

The statistics behind the warnings are grimly compelling.

Nature provides an unbending biological standard for the sex ratio at birth of 104-106 males to every 100 females. Any significant divergence from that narrow range can only be explained by abnormal factors.

In India and Vietnam the figure is around 112 boys for every 100 girls. In China it is almost 120 to 100 -- and in some places higher than 130.

And the trend is spreading: to regions like the South Caucasus, where Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia all post birth ratios of more than 115 to 100, and further west to Serbia and Bosnia.

Global awareness of the

problem was raised back in 1990 with an article by the Nobel prize-winning Indian economist Amartya Sen that carried the now famous title: "More Than 100 Million Women Are Missing."

Demographers say that figure is now more than 160 million -- women selected out of existence by the convergence of traditional preferences for sons, declining fertility and, most crucially, the prevalence of cheap prenatal sex-determination technology.

As many as half a million female foetuses are estimated to be aborted each year in India, according to a study by British medical journal The Lancet.

"Earlier villagers had to go to the city to get a sonogram (ultrasound)," said Poonam Muttreja, executive director of the non-profit Population Foundation of India. "Today sonographers are going into the villages to cater to people who want sons."

Even if the sex ratio at birth returned to normal in India and China within 10 years, Guilmoto says men in both countries would still face a "marriage squeeze" for decades to come.

"Not only would these men have to marry significantly older, but this growing marriage imbalance would also lead to a rapid rise in male bachelorhood... an important change in countries where al-

most everyone used to get married," he said.

How that change might manifest itself is hotly debated, although nearly everyone agrees there is no foreseeable upside.

Some forecast an increase in polyandry and sex tourism, while others predict cataclysmic scenarios with the rise of male-surplus societies where sexual predation, violence and conflict are the norm.

Sex-selective abortion is illegal in both China and India, but officials say the law is incredibly difficult to enforce.



The world's population of seven billion is set to rise to at least 10 billion by 2100, but could top 15 billion if birth rates are just slightly higher than expected, the United Nations said on Wednesday. In a report ahead of ceremonies on October 31 to mark the seven billionth human alive today, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) warned demographic pressure posed mighty challenges for easing poverty and conserving the environment. Babatunde Osotimehin, the UNFPA's executive director called for a focus on the rights of women and young people to help keep the global population in check. (AFP/Photo)

## Insomnia linked to higher heart attack risk



-- (AFP) As if you didn't have enough to worry about during those sleepless nights, a Norwegian study suggests that people with insomnia face a 27 to 45 percent higher risk of heart attack.

"Sleep problems are common and fairly easy to treat," said Lars Erik Laugsand, lead researcher from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology Department of Public Health in Trondheim.

"So it's important that people are aware of this connection between insomnia and heart attack and talk to their doctor if they're having symptoms."

Over the next 11 years, researchers identified 2,368 people who had their first heart attacks, via hospital records and Norway's National Cause of Death Registry.

After adjusting for factors such as age, sex, marital status, education level, blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, weight, exercise, shift work, depression and anxiety, re-

searchers found the highest boost in risk among the most troubled sleepers.

When they compared data from people who said they usually slept fine to people who said they had trouble falling asleep almost daily over the course of the last month, they saw a 45 percent higher risk in the sleepless group.

Those who said they could fall asleep but not stay asleep all night showed a 30 percent higher risk of heart attack than the group that slept well.

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## Sci-Tech

# IBM welcomes first female CEO

(AFP) -IBM Corp. ushered in the first female CEO in the company's 100-year history.

Virginia "Ginni" Rometty, a veteran at the technology giant famous for its conservative corporate culture, will take over as CEO from Sam Palmisano, IBM announced.

Palmisano has been CEO for nearly a decade and turned 60 this year. He will stay on as chairman.

Rometty, 54, takes over on Jan. 1. She is currently in charge of sales and marketing at the company based in Armonk, New York.

After she takes over the helm at IBM, women will be in charge of two of the world's largest technology companies. Last month, Meg Whitman was named CEO of Hewlett-



Packard Co. Whitman had previously joined eBay Inc. when it was a fledgling startup during the dot-com boom and guided it to become an Internet auction powerhouse. She also ran unsuccessfully for California governor last year.

While Whitman's HP is a sprawling company in disar-

ray, Rometty will inherit a finely tuned IBM whose focus on the high-margin businesses of technology services and software has helped it thrive.

IBM's move was unexpected. Palmisano had tamped down earlier talk of his retirement, insisting that he wanted to stay on as chief. In rare public comments, he said last year that he was "not going anywhere" and that there's no formal policy at IBM dictating when a CEO should retire.

Palmisano in a statement said that Rometty has led some of IBM's most important businesses, and was instrumental in the formation of IBM's business services division.

She is "more than a superb operational executive," Palmisano said.

# Cyber attacks hit Japan diplomatic missions

TOKYO (AFP) - Computers at several of Japan's overseas diplomatic missions have been hit by cyber attacks, a report said Wednesday, just a day after it was revealed the country's parliament had been targeted.

Computers at embassies and consulates in nine countries were infected with viruses in the summer, the Yomiuri Shimbun said, citing unnamed sources.

An official for the foreign ministry said no classified information had been stolen and there appeared to be nothing out of the ordinary about the

viruses.

He said the infections had been found in the ministry's Internet-capable open systems, while diplomatic secrets are handled in a closed system.

The Yomiuri said the countries where infection was found included France, the Netherlands, Myanmar, the United States, Canada, China and South Korea.

The paper said the infection included a "backdoor" virus, which opens a route into a computer's system to allow access by a remote hacker, who could use it to steal data.

On Tuesday the Asahi

Shimbun reported that computers in the lower house of parliament were hit by cyber attacks from a server based in China that left information exposed for at least a month.

That revelation came after a probe began into attacks on defence contractor Mitsubishi Heavy, which the Asahi on Monday said could have resulted in the theft of information on military aircraft and nuclear power plants.

China has been accused of spearheading online attacks on government agencies and companies, allegations Beijing has always denied.

# Brigitte Bardot tells Japan to stop whaling



TOKYO (AFP)- Former screen siren Brigitte Bardot has joined forces with militant environmentalists to call on Japan to halt its "campaign of death" in the annual Antarctic whale hunt.

In a letter to Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, the sixties sex kitten said it was "indecent" for the Japanese government to be spending an additional \$27 million on beefed-up security for this year's hunt.

"Whales are endangered and each animal killed is a crime against biodiversity," said the French actress, who heads the Brigitte Bardot Foundation.

Earlier this month, Tokyo announced that the whaling fleet would be protected in Antarctic waters by a naval escort in a bid to fend off harassment from groups such as Sea Shepherd, which pursues the boats.

Bardot said it was perverse to be spending money on sheltering whalers at a time when "the international community

has come to the aid of the victims of the tsunami" that hit the northeast of Japan on March 11.

The one-time pin-up said her foundation had helped to buy a new vessel for Sea Shepherd to boost the campaign to stop the Japanese "fleet of death" this year.

"The Sea Shepherd fleet will be there with my friend, Captain Paul Watson at the helm of the trimaran The Brigitte Bardot in the fight against the brigands and the murderers of the sea," she said.

Commercial whaling is banned under an international treaty but Japan uses a loophole to carry out "lethal research" on the creatures in the name of science.

It makes no secret of the fact that whale meat from this research ends up on dinner tables and in restaurants.

Sea Shepherd, a US-based outfit, claimed a victory of sorts earlier this year when Japan cut short its hunt by a month after repeated harassment from the group, having caught around a fifth of its target.

Activists have pursued the fleet through Antarctic waters, hurled stink bombs and tried their best to obstruct the hunt, which they say is commercial and has no basis in science.

She said the government should use the \$27 million that it intends to spend on protecting the whaling fleet to help people affected by the tsunami and to "come to the aid of animals condemned to die in terrible conditions."



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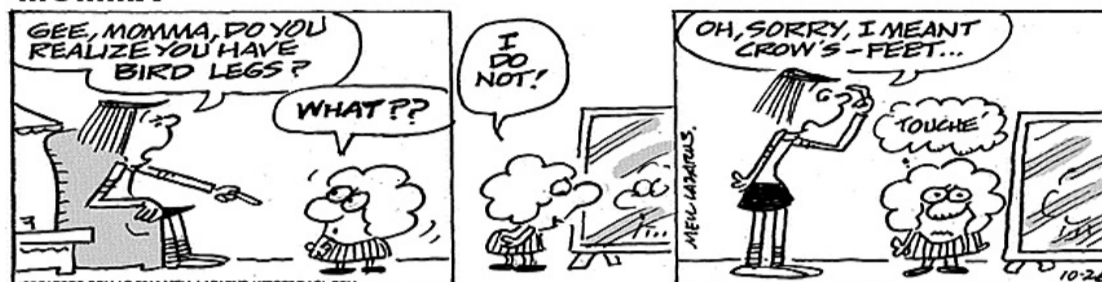
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## COMICS

## PICKLES



## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



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## ACROSS

1. Dateless
5. \_\_\_ in (collapsed)
10. Manche capital
14. Scottish monastic isle
15. Manifest
16. \_\_\_ Mints (popular Girl Scout cookies)
17. Rural toppers
19. Lacoste or Lalique
20. Erin: abbr.
21. Parisian peas
22. Root sources
24. Horse's hairdo
25. Swahili's language group
26. Locker room snappers
29. Noted Country Music Hall of Famer
32. Apartments, to a property

33. It used to be called macaroni
34. Big Band singer Starr
35. Vampire victim's sign
36. Curls
37. Tailless mammal
38. Herr's "oh"
39. Sailing vessels
40. "Who \_\_\_ Be Now?" (1982 hit)
41. Project delays
43. Wal-Mart's upscale competitor
44. Zion's "Dirty Dog"
45. Like some first editions
46. Raisin capital of the world
48. Place for a cat to unwind
49. Back-up for Gladys

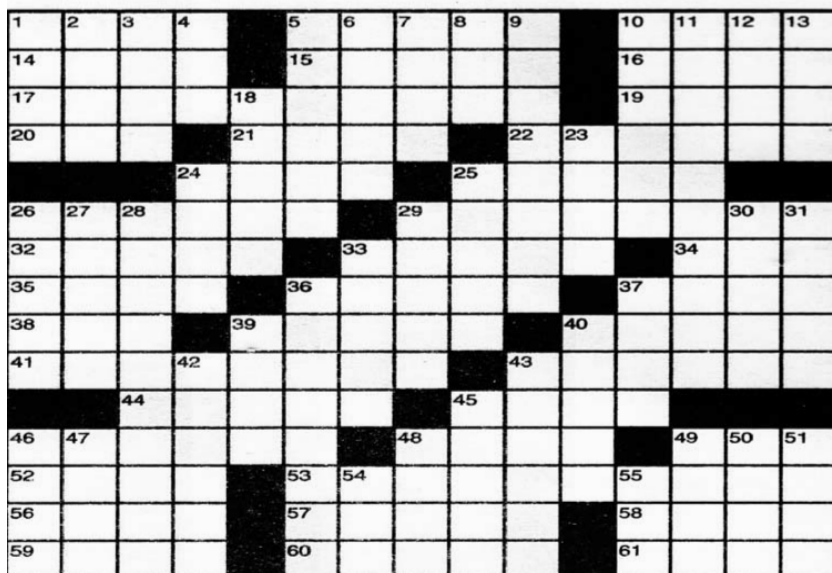
52. Kick out
53. Van Gogh work
56. Not solo
57. Fence steps
58. Kali's abundance
59. Lorgnette part
60. Corrosive substance
61. Orderly

## DOWN

1. Emphatic Spanish affirmative
2. Period of army duty
3. Eugenie's aunt
4. Chitchat
5. Church laws
6. Golfer with an army
7. Contends
8. Approximate: abbr.
9. Accompanying

## SOLAR SYSTEM

10. Emulates a peacock
11. Louis XIV
12. Cover the inner surface of
13. Fiver fifths
18. Gems thought to bring bad luck
23. "Puppy Love" singer
24. Distribute
25. Enjoys the sun
26. Polka band instruments
27. Being chilled
28. Clockwise, at sea
29. Gets into the Pentagon's computers
30. Jack of "The Texas Rangers"
31. First name in Western lawmen
33. Daffy's frequent costar
36. University of Wisconsin site
37. Make radish roses
39. Farm building
40. Don Corleone's son-in-law
42. Sews temporarily
43. Having more stories
45. Ransack
46. Young horse
47. Uncivil
48. Fit of anger
49. Balzac's "Le \_\_\_ Goriot"
50. Cookbook author
51. Attention-getter
54. Hagen of the theater
55. Pale



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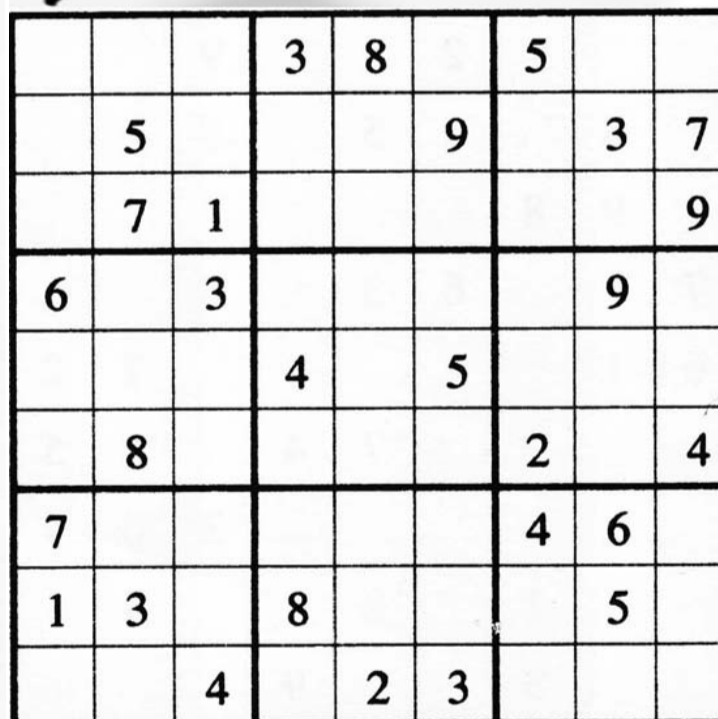
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## Sudoku



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8	L	I	E	Z	9	7	6	5
2	S	6	7	L	8	9	E	1
E	9	7	1	S	6	8	Z	L
7	1	Z	9	E	L	S	8	6
9	8	E	S	6	7	L	1	Z
S	6	L	8	1	Z	E	7	9
6	7	8	Z	9	S	1	L	E
L	E	9	6	7	1	Z	S	8
1	Z	S	L	8	E	6	9	7

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

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## Finance

### EU agrees bank recapitalisation plan

BRUSSELS (AFP) - European Union leaders agreed yesterday a plan to recapitalise banks so they can withstand the debt crisis, but the deal is contingent on the eurozone adopting a full package to protect the euro.

"We made good progress on the bank recapitalisation, that wasn't watered down, it now has been agreed," British Prime Minister David Cameron said after a meeting of the 27-nation EU, which preceded talks among the eurozone's 17 leaders.

"It will only go ahead when the other parts of the full package go ahead and further progress on that needs to happen tonight," Cameron told reporters.

With fears growing that the eurozone debt drama will turn into a banking system meltdown, European leaders want the banks to boost their core capital buffers so they can absorb expected losses on their holdings of Greek debt.

But eurozone negotiators were struggling to convince banks to accept a write down

of at least 50 percent, with bankers offering 40 percent instead.

"We discussed the situation and all leaders stressed their common resolve to do their utmost to overcome the crisis and to help face, in a spirit of solidarity, the challenges confronting the European Union and the Euro area," EU president Herman Van Rompuy said.

"Short term recapitalisation is needed in the current exceptional circumstances to create a temporary buffer allowing the banking system to withstand shocks in a reliable manner," he said in a statement.

In a summit statement, EU leaders said measures to restore confidence in Europe's banks "are urgently needed and are necessary in the context of strengthening prudential control of the EU banking sector."

They declared a "broad agreement" for banks to increase their core Tier 1 capital ratio to 9.0 percent of assets by June 30, 2012 -- this is two percentage points higher and

seven years earlier than under new international banking rules recently agreed in the Basel III regulators accord.

Banks must first try to raise funds through "private sources of capital, including through restructuring and conversion of debt to equity instruments."

Until the target is reached, the statement said, "banks should be subject to constraints regarding the distribution of dividends and bonus payments."

Governments should provide aid if necessary, the document says. But if such aid is impossible among eurozone nations, the bloc's bailout fund, the European Financial Stability Facility, could provide the money.

The declaration is devoid of any monetary figures but EU sources said recapitalisation would amount to 108 billion euros (\$150 billion) -- although the precise amount needed will depend on how much Greek debt the banks are willing to write off.

### Global regulators tighten home loan standards

GENEVA (AFP) - Global regulators yesterday proposed tighter standards on mortgage lending in a bid to avoid a repeat of the US sub-prime home loan crisis that sparked the 2008 financial crisis.

"As the global crisis demonstrated, the consequences of weak residential mortgage underwriting practices in one country can be transferred globally through securitisation of mortgages underwritten to weak standards," said the Financial Stability Board.

"As such it is important to have sound underwriting practices at the point at which a mortgage loan is originally made," the group of regulators from the 24 most advanced economies said.

Among standards to be imposed include a requirement that lenders make "reasonable inquiries" and steps to verify a borrower's repayment capability.

When establishing the amount of loan to be approved, lenders should ensure that there is sufficient allowance

for normal living expenses or sudden changes such as a salary cut.

The new standards are under consultation until December 9, 2011.

The US sub-prime crisis erupted in August 2007 when many low-income home owners could no longer keep up mortgage payments on their property, partly because interest rates were rising and partly because they had taken out loans with built-in incremental increases in repayments.

In many cases, the borrowers found themselves with loans that they were unable to service. It also emerged that some lenders granted such loans on the basis of false or weak documentation.

The resulting loan defaults quickly had widespread repercussions because lenders had repackaged the loans, and the repayment streams, under a system known as securitisation.

In the process, low-grade assets, the risky loans, acquired higher grade credit ratings and were bought by investment funds and banks around the world.

As default rates rose, these assets lost value dramatically, exposing their holders and leading to a collapse in the property and then financial markets.

### RIM stock suffers on new tablet software stall

MONTREAL (AFP) - Research In Motion took another hit yesterday as the BlackBerry maker delayed until February the release of a new version of the software powering its PlayBook tablet computers.

PlayBook OS 2.0 is seen as

a chance to improve the PlayBook's appeal in the eyes of businesses devoted to the Canadian company's smartphones but increasingly tempted by hot Apple or Android mobile gadgets.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

NOMAD	ORT	ABBES
ALICE	FOE	LOUPE
MISTLETOE	LOREN	
EOS	EVE	SPOTTED
	TEN	HOWL
ANSWER	DISSENTS	
SATED	WORE	GORE
TOOL	HOSTS	GLEE
EMIL	ONES	METER
RICHARDS	CARESS	
	ELSE	FOR
SWEETER	ROB	LIB
LADLE	FOOT	LOOSE
ANGER	URN	EAGLE
WEEDS	LET	SKEET

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Current as of: 10/26/2011	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD		1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG		1.00	1.002
Canada	CAD		1.760	1.780
Britain	GBP		2.830	2.890
Switzerland	CHF		2.0406	204.86
Netherlands	EUR		2.4805	2.5054
Sweden	SEK		0.2700	0.2780
Denmark	DKK		0.3309	0.3389
Norway	NOK		0.3206	0.3286
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## Singer Amy Winehouse poisoned by alcohol: inquest

LONDON (AFP) - Singer Amy Winehouse was more than five times over the British drink-drive limit when she died, an inquest heard Wednesday, as a coroner delivered a verdict of death by misadventure.

Winehouse, 27, was found dead at her London home on July 23 following years of alcohol and drug addiction.

The inquest, in London, was told she had suddenly drunk heavily after abstaining from alcohol for three weeks and was poisoned by alcohol.

The singer had 416 mil-

ligrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood. The legal drink-drive limit is 80mg.

Coroner Suzanne Greenway said: "She had consumed sufficient alcohol at 416mg per decilitre (of blood) and the unintended consequence of such potentially fatal levels was her sudden and unexpected death."

Her father Mitch Winehouse has said that his daughter made repeated attempts to quit alcohol but without any medical supervision.

She rocketed to fame after winning five Grammy awards off the back of "Back to

Black" and famously sang about her refusal to seek treatment for her addiction in her single "Rehab".

Police recovered three empty bottles of vodka, two large and one small, from her home.

The inquest heard confirmation that a post-mortem examination of her body found her vital organs in good health and with no traces of illegal drugs.

But the high level of alcohol in her system probably stopped her breathing and plunged her into a coma.

## US TV curmudgeon Rooney 'stable' after surgery

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Andy Rooney, 92, a US television legend for his weekly rants on "60 Minutes," is in stable condition after undergoing surgery not long after his final broadcast, the CBS network said yesterday.

"Andy Rooney underwent minor surgery last week and suffered serious complications," CBS News said in a brief statement that did not specify the nature of the operation. "The Rooney family asks that their privacy be respected at this difficult time."

Four-time Emmy winner Rooney targeted everything



from politics to pennies in curmudgeonly three-minute essays that concluded every edition of "60 Minutes," the longest running news magazine on US television.

His 1,097th and final essay aired on October 2.

"I wish I could do this forever," he said. "I can't, though. But I'm not retiring. Writers don't retire and I'll always be a writer."

## Jackson claimed propofol drip was safe, nurse tells court

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Michael Jackson begged to be given a propofol drip to help him sleep two months before he died, saying medics had assured him it was safe, a nurse told his doctor's manslaughter trial.

The King of Pop told nurse Cheryl Lee, a holistic expert, that doctors had told him he could take the drug -- a surgical anesthetic -- intravenously as long as he was monitored.

"The only medication that really helps me fall off to sleep right away is Diprivan," she quoted Jackson as saying, using a brand name for propofol, the drug which killed the singer.

Lee told how she went to Jackson's home on April 19, when the singer asked her to treat him with propofol by intravenous (IV) drip because other treatments were not working.

"He told me, 'Doctors have told me that it's safe, I just need to be monitored,'" she told the Los Angeles Superior Court, adding that she refused to treat him with the drug, after learning that it was a surgical anesthetic.

In a police interview played earlier during the five-week trial, Murray told how he tried to get Jackson to sleep from around 1:00 am, but failed and finally gave him 25 mg of

propofol at 10:40 am.

At some point after that he said he left for two minutes to go to the bathroom, and returned to the bedroom to find Jackson not breathing.

Lee said the singer told her "I want to be able to fall asleep easily so that I can get enough rest because I'm in the midst of doing a lot of work right now .. as soon as it gets into my vein I'm knocked out and I'm asleep," she quoted him as saying.

In other developments, the trial judge banned defense lawyers from asking about Jackson's multimillion-dollar contract for his final concert series.



ASUNCION (AFP) - Steven Tyler, lead singer of the US rock group Aerosmith, was admitted to a private hospital in Paraguay for treatment after apparently falling over in his hotel room, a report said. The singer, who had been scheduled to perform with his long-running band in the capital later this week, was reported to have suffered a cut eyebrow and injuries to his mouth including two broken teeth in the fall, said the newspaper ABC on its website. The 62-year-old, who has also had stints as a celebrity judge on the US talent show "American Idol," was treated for the injuries, according to the report citing witnesses in the La Costa hospital. (file photo)

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The restaurant is now open from early in the day for refreshments, and is the perfect lunch stop while touring, serving from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, after which visitors can enjoy a light snack from their Pizza Mini Menu until 6:00 PM when they officially open for dinner, until 11:00 PM.

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ervations can be made by calling 586- 0786 or 586-0787, or via e-mail link at their website, [www.arubalatrattoria.com](http://www.arubalatrattoria.com), where you can peruse their latest menu, as Chef Alberto is always devising some tasty new specialty to take advantage of what is fresh for the season.



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## Malaysian Islamic party protests Elton John show

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) - Members of an opposition Islamic party have called on Muslim-majority Malaysia to ban next month's concert by Elton John, saying that the gay singer promotes "hedonism".

Shahril Azman Abdul Halim Al-Hafiz, an official with the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS), said the concert at the Genting Highlands resort on Nov. 22 would corrupt young Muslims because of John's homosexuality.

"It's not good. In Islam homosexuality is forbidden," he told AFP. "What he is doing is hedonism. Hedonism is not good in Islam."

The British singer is openly gay, marrying his partner in 2005 after same-sex unions were legalised in Britain.

Shahril is the chairman of

the PAS youth wing of eastern Pahang state. The casino resort lies on the border of the state, about an hour's drive from the capital Kuala Lumpur.

An official from concert promoter Tune Live declined to comment.

But the show, part of John's "Greatest Hits Tour," is expected to go ahead in the resort. John will be singing in Singapore before he comes to Malaysia and then go on to Jakarta.

PAS often protests concert by Western acts, saying the artists promote a promiscuous lifestyle and corrupt youngsters' minds.

But despite protest threats, most concerts have gone ahead without incidents though performers had to abide by strict rules, barring them from bearing too much skin and kissing on stage.

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## Remembrance room open for Simoncelli mourners



People pay their last respects to the Italian MotoGP rider Marco Simoncelli in Coriano. (AFP/Photo)

CORIANO (AFP) - A remembrance room has been opened in Coriano in the Rimini region of Italy to allow mourners to paid tribute to MotoGP star Marco Simoncelli, who died in a motorbike crash on Sunday.

Around 5,000 people braved pouring rain to pay their respects to the 24-year-old in the first five hours of the room being opened, Italian news agency Ansa reported.

It was due to close at 10pm local time (2000GMT)

but will be re-opened again for a couple of hours on Thursday morning.

Simoncelli will be buried in his home town of Coriano todsy at 3pm local time, with the service being covered live on Italian television.

Local authorities have asked mourners not to come to the town, which they believe would not be able to cope with the volume of people expected.

Instead, well-wishers have been invited to head to the nearby Misano race-track to

watch proceedings on two giant screens that will be set up there.

Amongst the mourners on Wednesday was fellow MotoGP rider Marco Melandri.

"I've come to say goodbye to Marco, to say goodbye to a friend," he said.

Simoncelli's close friend and seven-time world champion Valentino Rossi will sit alongside the deceased's family at the funeral service, Italian media reports.

Simoncelli died on Sunday after crashing during the Malaysian Grand Prix at Sepang.

## Baseball: Sixth game of World Series postponed

ST. LOUIS- Game six of the World Series was postponed to today by Major League Baseball officials because of forecasts for heavy rain yesterday night at Busch Stadium. About 4 1/2 hours before the scheduled opening pitch of what could be the deciding game in the best-of-seven championship series between the Texas Rangers and St. Louis Cardinals, the decision was made to postpone the matchup.

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## First hoops fan Obama raps NBA, players over lockout

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - US President Barack Obama said billionaire NBA owners and millionaire players should think of their fans, bemoaning the labor dispute which has axed the start of the season.

Obama, a hoops enthusiast, also warned that labor stoppages like the one which shuttered the National Basketball Association could take some time to get over.

The president, appearing on NBC's "Tonight Show with Jay Leno" compared the situation to the recent labor row in the NFL, which was solved before regular season games were cancelled.

"We should be able to figure out how to split a nine-billion-dollar pot so that our fans, who are allowing us to make all of this money, can actually have a good season," he said, paraphrasing the conversation between NFL players and owners.

The first two weeks of the regular season -- 100 games scheduled from November 1-November 14 -- have been

lost as owners and players wrangle over a deal to replace the one that expired on July 1, when owners locked out players.

Further games have been in jeopardy since talks collapsed last week, with the sides still far apart on issues including division of revenues and a salary cap structure.

Meanwhile NBA clubs owners and players resumed talks on a new contract Wednesday afternoon.

ESPN reported Wednesday that the World All-Star Classic, a six-game global tour by Kobe Bryant, Dwyane Wade, Dwight Howard, Kevin Durant and other NBA stars, will begin Sunday in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Other games in the series, according to the report, will be November 1 and 2 at London's O2 Arena, November 6 at Macau's Venetian Hotel Cotai Arena and November 8 and 9 at Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne, Australia.

## FIFA probes 10 more Caribbean officials



GENEVA (AFP) - Ten more Caribbean football officials are being investigated over their role in a meeting that eventually led to the downfall of former Asian football chief Mohamed bin Hamman, FIFA said on Wednesday.

"The FIFA Ethics Committee has opened ethics proceedings against 10 more Caribbean Football Union (CFU) officials in regard to possible violations of the FIFA Code of Ethics," said football's governing body in a statement.

The case is "in relation to the investigation of the cases related to the special meeting of the CFU held in Trinidad and Tobago on 10 and 11

May 2011," it added.

Bin Hamman was banned from football for life in July, after he was found guilty of seeking to buy votes in the FIFA presidential election by offering cash gifts of \$40,000 each to delegates at the May CFU get-together.

Officials being probed were named as: Raymond Guishard, Damien Hughes (both Anguilla), Everton Gonsalves, Derrick Gordon (both Antigua and Barbuda), Lionel Haven (Bahamas, CFU), Patrick John, Philippe White (both Dominica), Vincent Cassell, Tandica Hughes (both Montserrat) and Oliver Camps (Trinidad and Tobago).

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## Tennis: Wozniacki top of the world after Sharapova withdrawal



file photo: Maria Sharapova

ISTANBUL (AFP) - Maria Sharapova's season ended in disappointment on Wednesday as she saw her hopes of regaining the title at the WTA Championships after a seven year

gap and of dethroning Caroline Wozniacki as world number one dashed because she is still feeling the effects of an ankle injury.

The former Wimbledon, US Open and Australian Open champion from Russia announced that she was withdrawing from the women's tour's flagship event after losing 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 to Li Na, the French Open champion from China.

Her decision ensured that Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki would become year-end world number one for the second successive year.

However, the Dane was unable to celebrate that with a victory as she was beaten 6-2,

4-6, 6-3 by Vera Zvonareva, the Russian who finished last year in second place, although this result decides nothing.

Provided Wozniacki beats Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova on today, she will finish the group with two wins and with a decent chance of qualifying for the semi-finals.

Sharapova could still feel the ankle injury she sustained four weeks ago in Tokyo, despite a very spirited effort in a flawed but fine match against a revitalised Li.

She always sought to take the initiative from the hard-hitting Sharapova, and her boldness contributed to her first win since August.

It was also only Li's sev-

enth since making history in Paris in June by becoming the first Chinese player to win a Grand Slam singles title.

Sharapova had points for a double break of serve and a 5-2 lead in the first set, and then led 4-0 in the tie-break, before Li fought back brilliantly.

In the second set Sharapova trailed by two breaks but battled back to earn three points for a double break back at 5-5 before Li denied her and took the match.

Sharapova said that two matches in as many days had tested her ankle to the limit.

"But the ankle didn't recover as well as I hoped after the first match," Sharapova said, referring to her loss on Tuesday to Samantha Stosur, the French Open champion from Australia.

It means that Sharapova will not play her last group match on Friday against Victo-

ria Azarenka, and that Marion Bartoli of France will take part in the tournament.

That though may depend on there being no other withdrawals.

The result was a big blow to the \$5 million tournament, which lost its highest profile player, but a welcome consolation was the partial return to form of Li, who has had long lasting knee problems.

Nevertheless Li looked very pleased to win, and if she wins again against Azarenka on Thursday, she will have a good chance of qualifying for the semi-finals.

Azarenka, who won the title in Luxembourg last week, again showed herself in good form, by earlier outplaying Stosur 6-2, 6-2, and maintained her one hundred percent winning record against the Australian.



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